



Glenway Animal Hospital
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Frequently Asked Puppy Questions

Congratulations on the arrival of your new puppy! The doctors and staff of Glenway Animal Hospital are committed to making sure that your newest family member lives a long, happy, and healthy life. To help you and your puppy start out on the right foot (and paw), we've put together a list of some frequently asked questions and their corresponding answers. This list is not all-inclusive but it does contain a lot of information we feel is very important. If you have additional questions please do not hesitate to contact us!

What should I feed my new puppy?

You get what you pay for when it comes to dog food. Science Diet and Royal Canin are generally recognized as the best brands on the market. As a general rule, you should feed your dog the most expensive food that will fit in to your budget. Large breed dogs, however, need to be fed either Royal Canin or Science Diet "Large Breed" formula because studies suggest that these diets help to prevent hip dysplasia (hip arthritis).

How much and how often should I feed my puppy?

Feed your dog 2/3 of the amount suggested on the dog food bag. If this amount does not seem correct, call us. No two dogs are the same and your dog may need to eat less or more depending on the situation. We feed our dogs twice daily for 15 minutes at a time. If your dog doesn't eat all of his/her food after the 15 minutes is over, pick up the food. Allowing your dog to eat whenever he/she wants can lead to problems later. The only exception to this rule would be if you own a toy breed. Toy breeds need to eat often to prevent hypoglycemia (low blood sugar), so it's OK to feed them more frequently.

You should also give your dog a rest time after he/she is fed. This is especially important with "deep-chested" dogs such as Labs, Golden Retrievers, Greyhounds, St. Bernards and Standard Poodles. This means no hard playing or running after they have been fed because these breeds are pre-disposed to developing Gastric Dilatation and Volvulus, or GDV, where the stomach flips and blocks the blood supply back to the heart from the intestinal tract. Signs of GDV include lethargy, trying to vomit without bringing anything up, weakness, and distended, or enlarged, abdomen. GDV can quickly become life threatening so it is important to get IMMEDIATE medical attention if you notice any of these signs.

What should I do if I have an emergency?

If an emergency arises, call us first at 662-0224. Our office is open from 7 AM to 6 PM Monday through Friday and from 8 AM to 12 Noon on select Saturdays. If we are not available you will be

directed to call the Cincinnati Animal Referral and Emergency (CARE) Center at 530-0911. The CARE Center is open twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week. Because it is located in Blue Ash, we recommend that you take a test drive to the CARE Center so if there is an emergency you are already familiar with the location.

What is Parvo and how do I keep my puppy from catching it?

Parvo is a viral disease that can cause problems in puppies before their immune system has matured. Some signs of parvo are lethargy, vomiting, and bloody diarrhea. To protect from this potentially fatal disease, you should not take your dog to any public areas until he/she is fully vaccinated; this includes parks, stores such as PetSmart, public sidewalks and the groomers. If you have any questions about when you can take your puppy out in public areas please feel free to ask.

How many shots will my puppy need?

The answer to this question depends on the age of your dog when the vaccination series is started. We administer the Distemper/Parvo vaccinations every three to four weeks until your dog has received two of these vaccinations within three to four weeks of each other. This vaccine is then boosted annually.

Rabies vaccinations are given after 16 weeks of age and Hamilton County Law requires that dogs and cats be vaccinated for Rabies before they are six months old. Your dog's initial rabies vaccine is good for one year. After that, we will booster this vaccine every 3 years.

Also, if you plan to take your dog to any facility in which there are other dogs, like a boarding facility, dog park, or the groomer, you should have your dog vaccinated to prevent kennel cough and canine influenza. The Kennel Cough vaccine is only given as needed, so it is not part of our standard vaccination protocol, however if your dog requires this vaccine, it will need to be boosted every 6 months. The Canine Influenza vaccine is boosted 3 to 4 weeks after the initial vaccine, then it is boosted annually.

How do I know if my dog has worms?

There are usually no visual signs of parasite infections, so you will need to bring in a fecal sample for us to have checked. Your puppy's sample will be sent out to a lab to be checked as the procedure they use has been found to be more accurate. This is an important test to perform because some worms that dogs carry can be passed to people. We need to check for worms twice a year. You should also bring a stool sample with you any time you bring your dog in for diarrhea, vomiting, etc.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Companion Animal Parasite Council also recommend that we administer Strongid-T, a broad-spectrum anti-parasitic medication to all of our patients at their wellness exams every 6 months. However, keep in mind that routine deworming does not eliminate the need for fecal testing or vice versa. Check out www.cdc.gov/healthypets/animals and www.capcvet.org for more information on parasitic and zoonotic (animal to human) infections.

What are heartworms and how do I prevent my dog from catching them?

Heartworms are worms that are transmitted, by mosquitoes, to your dog's blood stream. If left untreated heartworms can lead to congestive heart failure. To prevent heartworms and other

intestinal parasites from becoming a problem, we will prescribe Interceptor or Sentinel that you will give your dog once a month. The medication needs to be given all year round to prevent heartworms and intestinal parasites. We will draw a blood sample from your dog every year to be sure that the heartworm medicine is doing its job.

Where can I get heartworm prevention for my puppy?

There are two methods of obtaining heartworm prevention for your dog. The first is through our office. The other method is through our online pharmacy. Please ask any of our team members for more information about ordering heartworm prevention.

Is there anything I can do to prevent fleas?

Some dogs get fleas and some don't. Some clients prefer to prevent their dogs from getting fleas, while others prefer to take a "wait and see" approach. If you would like to prevent fleas there are medications that can help. Please ask any of our team members if you would like information on the medications available for your dog.

Where can I get a dog license?

Dogs are required to have a license within three months after a new owner takes possession of the dog. You can pick up the application at our office and send it in. You can also purchase a dog license at the Hamilton County SPCA. This license needs to be renewed yearly.

Are there any books that are available to help with learning about dog training at home?

While there are a million (at least) different books available on this subject, three that seem to be popular with our clients are:

- Getting Started: Clicker Training for Dogs, by Karen Pryor
- Don't Shoot the Dog: The New Art of Teaching and Training, by Karen Pryor

When should I have my puppy spayed or neutered?

It is best to schedule these surgeries before your dog turns 1 year old. Female dogs go into heat at around six months of age and it is best to have their surgery done *before* they go into heat for the first time. This decreases the chance of developing mammary cancer later on, and eliminates the possibility of unwanted puppies.

What are microchips?

Microchips are a form of permanent identification for your dog. The chip itself is the size of a grain of rice and is placed under the skin above the dog's shoulders. Once the chip is in place a scanner can be used to determine your dog's ID number. More and more humane societies, veterinary offices, and most research labs scan new dogs so if your dog should get lost or stolen a microchip may help to get your pet safely home. Please ask if you would like more information regarding microchips or visit HomeAgain.com.

Is there such a thing as health insurance for dogs?

There are several companies that offer pet health insurance, but because the concept is relatively new, we advise taking a cautious attitude. The company that currently offers the most comprehensive pet health insurance is:

- Trupanion: Medical Insurance for your pets 1-800-569-7913
www.trupanion.com/mynewpuppy

How should I housebreak my new puppy?

The key to house breaking your dog is to **reward your puppy when he/she does well and scold them when they make a mistake**. While this sounds simple, in some cases this can be very challenging. If after reading the following information you still have questions, please give us a call.

Key Points:

- Puppies need to be watched **constantly** until they are trained enough to be trusted!
- If they can't be watched constantly they need to be in a safe place. Crates work well for this. (Check out the "Cozy Crates" and "The Great Crate Debate" articles.)
- There are at least four times when dogs need to go outside:
 - 1.When they wake up.
 - 2.Shortly after eating.
 - 3.During or shortly after playtime.
 - 4.When their owner gets home.
- During these times, watch your puppy for body language changes like intense ground sniffing or walking differently. If you notice any of these changes take your dog outside right away.
- When your dog goes to the bathroom outside you need to praise him/her right away. To make sure your dog understands what is right, there is no overdoing the praise. The more excited you get, the quicker they get the message.
- You need to find a way that you are comfortable with to use when you need to let your dog know something has been done wrong. Please ask us for suggestions if you have trouble finding a method you are comfortable with.
- When your puppy has an accident you should let them know a mistake was made within two seconds of the incident. A puppy's attention span is so short that scolding after the fact only confuses the issue. If your puppy has an accident and you are not there to witness the event, don't waste your time scolding, chalk it up to experience and watch more closely from that point on.
- If these tips don't help, please give us a call.

What kind of things should I be doing at home with my puppy to make sure they remain happy and healthy?

There are many things you can do at home to help ensure the health of your pet. Since your puppy can't tell you when something is wrong, the responsibility falls to you, their owner, to make sure they are as healthy as they can be. A few examples of things you can do at home include:

Watch for changes in behavior or attitude. Appearing excessively tired, not hungry, drinking more than usual, differences in their bathroom habits, etc. can all be signs of

something being “off” with your pet. If you ever have a question about something your puppy is doing or how they are acting, please call.

Take time every day to play with your puppy’s ears, feet and mouth. Being able to do this with your dog will make things like tooth brushing, nail trims and ear cleanings go much smoother as they get older. The best way to do this is to massage their gums while they snuggle with you, play with their feet and toes and rub their ears.

Learning to trim your dog’s nails. We know that this is not a simple thing to do and can sometimes be scary, however starting this when they are younger makes it easier to continue when their adults. The thing to remember is that as their nails grow, the blood vessel located in the nail grows as well. The longer this becomes the harder it is to get the nail to be short again. Our technicians/assistants would be happy to demonstrate how to trim your dog’s nails. Remember though that as they are learning the process, you do not need to trim all four feet at one time. Get one done and then give lots of praise and treats, you can then go back 20-30 minutes later and do another. This will make things easier on both you and your dog. Getting into a habit of doing this every 2-3 weeks will help keep your dog’s nails at a good length.

Brushing your puppy’s teeth. Just like with people, good oral health helps promote good overall health in your dog. Aside from giving your dog bad breath, dental disease can also lead to pain and, eventually, to organ failure. Getting into a routine of brushing your dogs teeth daily will help to prevent these things, as well as the need for dental cleanings under anesthesia as often. Our technicians or assistants would be happy to walk you through how to brush your dog’s teeth.

Applying Oravet. Another way to promote good oral health in your dog is through the use of Oravet. Oravet works as a barrier sealant on your dog’s teeth, creating a slick surface that makes it harder for the tartar to bind to. Applying Oravet weekly as well as brushing your dog’s teeth will help maintain their oral health for a longer period of time.

Last, but certainly not least, bringing them in to see us every 6 months! Considering that your dog is going to age five to seven years for each calendar year, it is important for us to see them more than once a year. At Glenway Animal Hospital we have embraced the National Pet Wellness Month guidelines (www.npwm.com) and now have a twice a year wellness program in place. During the first visit each year, your dog will receive a comprehensive physical exam and any necessary vaccinations. Six months later we will perform another examination and also perform diagnostic tests, which may include bloodwork and urinalysis. Our goal is to detect health issues before they begin to cause problems. At both visits we will also ask you to bring a fecal sample for us to microscopically analyze. If you have any questions about our wellness program, please ask.

Once again, congratulations on the arrival of your newest family member! If all of your questions have not been answered, please call us at **662-0224**. Our office is open:

Monday through Friday 7am to 6pm

Saturdays 8am to 12Noon

You can also reach us through our email address: **Glenwayahstaff@fuse.net**